



News From

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MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE, JOHNSON, FLYNN OFFICIATE GRAND OPENING OF PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle was joined today by Mayor William A. Johnson Jr., Monroe Community College President R. Thomas Flynn and scores of police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel at the official opening ceremonies for the Monroe County Public Safety Training Facility (PSTF). The state-of-the-art, regional, emergency training complex, located on Scottsville Road, is owned by Monroe County and operated through a partnership with the city and Monroe Community College.

"Since September 11, the need for heightened security and emergency readiness has never been more critical," said Doyle. "This facility is second-to-none in bringing agencies together in the seamless education and training of our police, fire, and emergency medical services personnel. Additionally, high-technological advancements in our Emergency Operations Center will aid in local emergency readiness. The safety and welfare of our residents depends on a high-tech facility of this caliber which further enhances our ability to effectively respond to emergencies."

At the ribbon cutting ceremonies, Doyle dedicated the opening of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to those who lost their lives in the tragic events of September 11, 2001. A plaque was unveiled in commemoration of the victims which reads: *"The purpose of the Emergency Operations Center is to ensure the safety and well-being of Monroe County's citizens during times of crisis and is formally dedicated to the memory of the brave men and women in police, fire, and emergency medical services who died as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001."*

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The Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness executes county plans for civil defense and disaster relief before, during and after any type of natural or man-made disaster or wartime situation. The office develops and maintains a comprehensive emergency management plan that includes preparedness, response and recovery. The new EOC is equipped with technological advancements such as electronic field data and photo sharing, GIS mapping, utility mapping, videoconferencing, remote live video feed, weather radar, and a working media area which allows observation of the EOC and direct dissemination of public information to the county's media partners.

"This wonderful facility with its state-of-the-art capacities, represents one of the best local examples of intergovernmental cooperation in the public interest," said Johnson. "Dedicated to providing the same high standard of training for all public safety personnel in the county, whether professional or volunteer, this now updated structure enhances our cooperative efforts with new methods and technologies that ensure our area remains among the best and safest in which to live, work and raise a family."

The PSTF was a two-phase project initiated in 1994 by a PSTF study group comprised of county, city and private sector safety professionals. Phase I consisted of a key training component for Air Rescue Fire Fighters (ARFF) and for career and volunteer fire fighters including: the construction of the fire training grounds, new burn building, fire training props and aircraft simulators. The fire training grounds, which opened in the fall of 1999, are situated on 10.5 acres located between the existing Fire Academy building and the Genesee River.

Phase II, unveiled today, involved the construction of a new 60,000 square foot addition and 50,000 square feet of related renovations and site improvements to the existing Fire and Police Training Academy building and the new EOC. Guests and media at the ribbon cutting toured the EOC and other rooms of particular interest at the PSTF such as a Crime Scene Simulator, Professional Range Instruction Simulator (PRISim), Interior Search Maze, Haz Mat/Sprinkler Lab, EMS Lab, TEAM/Tac Simulator, and Computer Lab.

Construction of Phase II cost approximately \$13 million, with \$4 million in state funding provided by the State University of New York (SUNY). Monroe Community College (MCC) manages the facility. The county formally contracted with MCC for all public safety training. Under the existing arrangement the college provides law enforcement, probation and EMS training. With the new agreement, MCC will expand its training oversight for all public safety training to include firefighting training as well.

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"Bringing public safety training for the region into one, state-of-the-art facility allows us to respond quickly to the needs of the community," said Flynn. "Further, the advantage of all public safety professionals having a common base of knowledge cannot be underestimated. We are all operating from the same playbook."

Total project cost of Phase I and II was approximately \$26 million and included funding from the County of Monroe (\$11 million), Federal Aviation Administration (\$8.8 million,) SUNY (\$4 million), City of Rochester (\$1.5 million), New York State Department of Transportation (\$489,000), and the Airport Authority (\$489,000).

The PSTF project was developed through consultation with various public safety agencies in the county including the Monroe County Fire Bureau, Town/Village Police, the County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Services, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Greater Rochester International Airport, City of Rochester Police and Fire Departments, Industrial Management Council and MCC's Public Safety Training Center staff.

First priority for use of the training facility will be given to local police, fire, EMS and private sector agencies. Due to the enhanced training components and the construction of the aircraft fire simulators, it is expected that fire and emergency personnel from around the northeast and Canada will eventually train simultaneously with local user agencies.

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